

REMARKS

In the Official Action dated September 16, 2008, the Examiner rejected the pending claims. Applicants request that the Examiner favorably consider the newly presented claims.

As previously discussed, the Examiner has inappropriately combined various features of various tensioning devices without any motivation for why one of ordinary skill would make such a combination. In fact, the only motivation provided by the Examiner appears to come from Applicants' own disclosure.

Additionally, with respect to the St. John reference, the indicator simply indicates the amount of tension applied by the arm. Therefore, the user can misuse the device by inappropriately tensioning the device in the wrong direction, and the pointer will not give the user any warning. Specifically, if the spring is oriented so that the convolutions of the spring wrap in a clockwise fashion, it is desirable to use the device so that the tension is provided in a clockwise fashion. Otherwise, the tension will tend to unwrap the spring, which can lead to premature failure. Nothing in St. John's teaches or suggests any type of indicator relative to this issue. St. John's simply provides a pointer that gives an indicator of the relative magnitude and direction of the tension that the device is under.

In light of the foregoing, Applicant believes that this application is in form for allowance. The Examiner is encouraged to contact Applicant's undersigned attorney if the Examiner believes that issues remain regarding the allowability of this application.

Respectfully submitted,

Patent Application No. 10/632,703

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